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EXAMINER

TRAN, HANH VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/7/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12, 19-21, 23, 25-29, 34-35, 37-38, and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paradigm Industries, Inc., Photographs of a stand first offered for sale approximately September of 2001 (Paradigm Stand) in view of German 2,601,223 to Peddinghaus.

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Paradigm Stand discloses a stand comprising a base, a support member interconnected to the base, a support sleeve having at least a top surface and in slidable telescopic cooperation with the support member, a lift platform associated with the top surface of the support sleeve, a coupling mechanism slidably interconnected to the support sleeve, an actuating lever interconnected to the coupling mechanism, a clevis interconnected to the base, at least one link member pivotally interconnected to the clevis and the actuating lever, wherein the coupling mechanism is adjustably positionable relative to the slidable member and provides infinite adjustment of the height of the slidable member relative to the base within a preselected range, and wherein the stand can be selectively positioned between a first position of rest and a second position of use. The different being that Paradigm Stand does not disclose a self-lubricating member, said self-lubricating member be either a sleeve or at least one strip, and a seal member.

Peddinghaus teaches the idea of providing a plurality of telescoping members with a self-lubricating member, which can be either a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand by providing a self-lubricating member in the form of a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members, as taught by Peddinghaus, since both teach alternate conventional telescoping members structures, thereby providing structure as claimed. In regard to a seal member, it would have been obvious and well within the level of one

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skill in the art to provide the stand of Paradigm Stand with a seal member in order to prevent dirt from entering the telescoping members.

5. Claims 8, 24, 36, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paradigm Stand, as modified, as applied to claims 1, 19, 34, and 38 above, and further in view of USP 5,769,396 to Tischendorf.

Paradigm Stand, as modified, discloses all the elements as discussed above except for the clevis is removable.

Tischendorf discloses a stand comprising a base, a lift platform, an actuating lever, and a removable clevis; wherein the removable clevis allows a more compact stand in the storage configuration. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand, as modified, by having the clevis being removable in order to provide a more compact stand in the storage configuration, as taught by Tischendorf, since both teach alternate conventional stand structure, used for the same intended purpose, thereby providing structure as claimed.

6. Claims 13, 15, 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paradigm Stand in view of USP 5,769,396 to Tischendorf and German 2,601,223 to Peddinghaus.

Paradigm Stand, as stated in paragraph #4 above, discloses all the elements recited in the above listed claims 13, 16, and 18, including the claimed limitation of the actuating lever operatively communicating with the support sleeve to allow the lift platform to be adjusted to a plurality of heights, i.e., the first height position of rest and the second height position of use. The differences being that it does not disclose the

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clevis is removable and a self-lubricating member, said self-lubricating member be either a sleeve or at least one strip.

Tischendorf discloses a stand comprising a base, a lift platform, an actuating lever, and a removable clevis; wherein the removable clevis allows a more compact stand in the storage configuration. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand by having the clevis being removable in order to provide a more compact stand in the storage configuration, as taught by Tischendorf, since both teach alternate conventional stand structure, used for the same intended purpose, thereby providing structure as claimed.

Peddinghaus teaches the idea of providing a plurality of telescoping members with a self-lubricating member, which can be either a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand, as modified, by providing a self-lubricating member in the form of a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members, as taught by Peddinghaus, since both teach alternate conventional telescoping members structures, thereby providing structure as claimed.

7. Claims 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paradigm Stand in view of Moose Aluminum Lift Stand, year 2002 model and German 2,601,223 to Peddinghaus.

Paradigm Stand, as stated in paragraph #4 above, discloses all the elements recited in claim 30 including the claimed limitation of the support sleeve and the lift

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platform can be adjusted to a plurality of heights, i.e., the first height position of rest and the second height position of use. The differences being that Paradigm Stand does not disclose the coupling mechanism can be selectively interconnected along the support sleeve and a self-lubricating member, said self-lubricating member be either a sleeve or at least one strip.

However, Moose Aluminum Lift Stand, year 2002 model teaches the idea of providing a lift stand, which can provide the support sleeve and the lift platform with two height choices for low dual sport bikes and high MX bikes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand by providing the support sleeve and the lift platform with two height choices for various bikes' heights, as taught by Moose Aluminum Lift Stand, year 2002 model, since both teach alternate conventional lift stand structure, used for the same intended purpose, thereby providing structure as claimed. Further, in regard to the coupling mechanism can be selectively interconnected along the support sleeve (being separable from the support sleeve and adjustable along the support sleeve), instead of being fixed at one position as disclosed in Paradigm Stand, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the coupling mechanism being selectively interconnected along the support sleeve, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179, and since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Stevens*, 101 USPQ 284 (CCPA 1954).

Peddinghaus teaches the idea of providing a plurality of telescoping members with a self-lubricating member, which can be either a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Paradigm Stand, as modified, by providing a self-lubricating member in the form of a sleeve or a strip in order to facilitate relative adjustment of the telescoping members, as taught by Peddinghaus, since both teach alternate conventional telescoping members structures, thereby providing structure as claimed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 6/7/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's remarks on page 11 that the claims are now allowable as the structure added to each claim is nowhere taught by any of the prior art of record and is not obvious in light of any of the prior art of record, the examiner takes the position that the amended claimed language fails to provide adequate structural limitations to the claims in order to distinguish from the prior art of record. More specifically, the Paradigm Stand clearly shows and meets the claimed limitation of the coupling mechanism being "adjustably positionable relative to the support sleeve". Further, as the sleeve of the Paradigm Stand moves from a first lower position to a second elevated position, it also meets the claimed limitation of providing "infinite adjustment within a preselected range of the height of the support sleeve relative to the base".

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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-6868. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, and alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HVT
June 12, 2006


Hanh V. Tran
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